

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 AID-05 /078 W
----- 080874 /50 45

R 211405Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3912
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2587

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINS, PROP, ELAB, GY
SUBJECT: BAUXITE STRIKE AT LINDEN

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 2535, (B) GEORGETOWN 2571

1. REPORTS REACHING THE EMBASSY INDICATE THAT THE BAUXITE STRIKE CONTINUES. THE "CITIZEN" OF DECEMBER 17 REPORTED THAT OPERATIONS AT THE GUYBAU BAUXITE WORKS AT LINDEN WERE NORMAL. HOWEVER, THE "CHRONICLE" OF DECEMBER 19 REPORTED THAT A FULL RESUMPTION OF WORK WAS EXPECTED THE FOLLOWING DAY.

2. EMBOFF WHO MADE A PLEASURE VISIT TO LINDEN ON DEC. 18 HAD OPPORTUNITY DURING SOCIAL CALL TO LISTEN TO DISCUSSION ABOUT STRIKE BETWEEN A LADER OF THE STRIKERS, A POLICE INSPECTOR AND A MEMBER OF GUYBAU MANAGEMENT.

3. DURING THIS DISCUSSION, ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ON STRIKE VARIED FROM 30 TO 70 PERCENT.
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ANOTHER RELIABLE REPORT FROM A TRADE UNION LEADER INDICATES THAT APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT OF THE WORK FORCE IS STILL STRIKING. THE INSPECTOR CONFIRMED THE REPORTS OF ARRESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS REPORTED REFTELS. HE ALSO STATED PM IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AUTHORITIES IN LINDEN AND GAVE PERSONAL

ORDER TO POLICE TO BREAK UP DEMONSTRATION IN
FRONT OF JAIL.

4. ALTHOUGH THE MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE
MAINTAINED THAT THE WORKERS WOULD RETURN SOON,
BOTH THE STRIKER AND POLICE INSPECTOR
EXPECTED THE STRIKE TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE END
OF THE YEAR. SECURITY IS TIGHT AND EMBOFF
NOTICED RIOT SQUAD PERSONNEL STATIONED AT KEY
POINTS AT THE BAUXITE COMPLEX. ACCORDING TO
ALL THREE PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFER-
SATION, THE REPORTS IN THE MIRROR THAT THE GUYANA
PEOPLE'S MILITIA (GPM) IS BEING USED TO BREAK
THE STRIKE ARE NOT ACCURATE. HOWEVER, MANY OF
THE WORKERS WHO HAVE REMAINED ON THE JOB ARE ALSO
MEMBERS OF THE GPM.

5. EMBOFF NOTICED THAT ALL SMOKE STACKS WERE
BELLOWING AND THAT THE RAIL LINES WERE FULL OF
ORE CARS DESTINED FOR THE FACTORY. THIS STRIKE
IS EVIDENTLY CENTERED IN THE FACTORIES AND NOT IN
THE MINES. REPORTS INDICATE THAT PRODUCTION IS
AT APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT.

6. THE POLICE INSPECTOR CONFIRMED OTHER REPORTS
REACHING THE EMBASSY THAT MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION
WORKING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (WPA) HAVE BEEN ACTIVE
IN FOMENTING THE STRIKE. THE INSPECTOR
CONSTANTLY ALLUDED TO THE ROLE OF OUTSIDERS IN
THE STRIKE AND MAINTAINED THAT THE
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CIA HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN CHANNELING FUNDS TO THE
STRIKERS. THE STRIKER SCOFFED AT THIS AND
CLAIMED STRIKE PURELY ECONOMIC.

7. EMBASSY WILL BE SURPRISED IF STRIKE CONTINUES
AFTER NEW YEAR WHEN WORKERS WILL BEGIN TO FEEL
FINANCIAL PINCH. SINCE STRIKE IS NOT SUPPORTED
BY UNION, WORKERS DO NOT HAVE STRIKE FUNDS TO
DRAW UPON ALTHOUGH WPA PURPORTEDLY RAISED
G\$27,000 FOR BAIL FOR THE ARRESTED WORKERS.
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